

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1- 24 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Heat~~A heat exchanger-(1), in particular an evaporator for an air conditioning system of motor vehicles, comprising:

at least one header tank-(2) having at least two header chambers-(3, 4) wherein substantially each header chamber-(3, 4) is substantially defined by a base device-(12) and a top device-(13);

wherein the top device-(13) of a first header chamber-(3) comprises a first middle side wall-(15) and the top device-(23) of a second header chamber-(4) comprises a second middle side wall-(25);

wherein at least a section of the first middle side wall-(15) is positioned adjacent to the second middle side wall-(25);

wherein a lateral distance of the first middle side wall-(15) from the second middle side wall-(25) increases with the distance from the base device-(12) at least over a portion of the height-(69) of the header tank-(2).

2. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of claim 1, characterized in that the gap-(22) between the first and the second middle side wall-(15; 25) is substantially V-shaped.

3. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that at least one stabilizing device is mounted to at least one side wall ~~(14, 15; 24, 25)~~ to increase stability.

4. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of claim 3, characterized in that a longitudinal direction of at least one stabilizing device ~~(31, 35)~~ is substantially perpendicular to the base device ~~(12)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of ~~at least one of the claims 3 or 4~~, characterized in that claim 3, wherein at least one stabilizing device ~~(35)~~ is configured as a depression system ~~(35)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of ~~at least one of the claims 3 to 5~~, characterized in that claim 3, wherein at least one stabilizing device ~~(35)~~ is configured as a groove system ~~(35)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of ~~at least one of the claims 3 to 6~~, characterized in that claim 3, wherein at least one stabilizing device ~~(35)~~ is substantially configured as a groove ~~(35)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of ~~at least one of the claims 3 to 7, characterized in that~~ claim 3, wherein at least one stabilizing device ~~(31)~~ projects outwardly.

9. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of claim 8, characterized in that at least one stabilizing device ~~(31, 35)~~ is configured as a crease system ~~(31)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of ~~at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein at least one partition is provided which comprises a guiding crease.

11. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of ~~at least one of the claims 3 to 9, characterized in that~~ claim 3, wherein a depth ~~(36)~~ of at least one stabilizing device ~~(31, 35)~~ increases with a distance ~~(29)~~ from the base device ~~(12)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of ~~at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein in a contact region of the middle side walls ~~(15, 25)~~ with the base device ~~(12)~~ a base recess ~~(30)~~ is positioned.

13. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of ~~at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein at least one flat tube ~~(40)~~ has a smaller wall thickness ~~(42, 45)~~ in the region of a flange ~~(49)~~ than in a region of a radius ~~(43)~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of claim 13, characterized in that at least one flat tube ~~(40)~~ has a wall thickness ~~(45)~~ in the region of the flanges ~~(49)~~ smaller by at least 20 % than in a region of the radius.

15. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of ~~at least one of the claims 13 to 14, characterized in that~~ claim 13, wherein at least one flat tube ~~(40)~~ has a wall thickness of approximately 0.3 mm at least at one position in the region of the flanges ~~(49)~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of ~~at least one of the claims 13 to 14, characterized in that~~ claim 13, wherein at least one flat tube ~~(40)~~ has a wall thickness ~~(44)~~ of approximately 0.5 mm at least at one position in the region of a radius ~~(43)~~.

17. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of ~~at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein at least one top device ~~(13, 23)~~ is manufactured integrally.

18. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of ~~at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein at least one top device ~~(13, 23)~~ is manufactured integrally with the base device ~~(12)~~.

19. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of ~~at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein at least one connection aperture ~~(6, 7)~~ is arranged on a longitudinal side section ~~(8)~~ of the header tank ~~(2)~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of ~~at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the header tank ~~(2)~~ is connected with two rows of heat exchanger tubes ~~(9)~~ arranged in-line.

21. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of ~~at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the base device ~~(12)~~ and/or the top device ~~(13, 23)~~ are formed of a pretreated plate.

22. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of ~~at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein at least one side wall ~~(14, 15, 24, 25)~~ comprises at least one tab ~~(18)~~ which is inserted in a recess ~~(19)~~ of the base device.

23. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of ~~at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein a cover lid ~~(5)~~ is arranged at least at one end face ~~(38)~~ of at least one header chamber ~~(3, 4)~~.

24. (Currently Amended) The heat exchanger of ~~at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein at least one connection aperture ~~(6, 7)~~ is arranged at one end face ~~(38)~~ of at least one header chamber ~~(3, 4)~~ of the header tank ~~(2)~~.